AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-6. (canceled)
- 7. (currently amended) A method for the detection of a fungal pathogen, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) isolating DNA from a plant leaf infected with a pathogen;
 - (b) subjecting said DNA to polymerase chain reaction amplification using a pair of primers wherein each primer has sequence identity with at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of a mitochondrial small subunit rDNA gene from from *Fusarium* subglutinans a *Fusarium* spp. and wherein at least one primer comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS:13, 15 or 16; and
 - (c) detecting said fungal pathogen by visualizing the product or products of said polymerase chain reaction amplification.
- 8-12. (canceled)
- 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the primers comprise:

[[a]] SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16[[;]]

b) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;

- d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20.

- 14-16. (canceled)
- 17. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting <u>Fusarium subglutinans</u> a fungal pathogen comprising at least one primer having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: <u>13, 15</u> or <u>1613-20, 23 or 24</u>.
- 18. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting <u>Fusarium proliferatum</u> a fungal pathogen comprising a pair of primers of:
- [[a]]] SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16[[;]]

- b) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;
- e) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:19; and
- d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20.